

What Parents Wish Teachers Knew About ADHD

By Jane Sandwood

Raising a child with ADHD is in many ways just like raising any other child. They have their good days, their bad days, and they are completely unpredictable. Unlike other children, however, they do need someone to go the extra mile for them.

Typically, this is [the parent or parents](#), who advocate for the child at every turn. While it requires a team to raise a child with special needs, it is also isolating to feel that the child's teacher doesn't quite understand their. In fact, there are a number of things parents wish teachers knew about ADHD.

They Can't Focus

[A child with ADHD](#), even in today's environment of deeper understanding, is still viewed as a "problem child" because they simply cannot focus in a group. In an attempt to understand how this feels, grab a sample of the toughest math problems possible. Take this sample to the local mall at peak hours. Try to complete the assignment correctly, concentrating amidst the noise. This is what it's like for the child every day in a crowded classroom. And while a child with ADHD may have a quiet place at home for homework, this is also necessary at school.

They Will Shut Down

When a child refuses to answer a question or react when reprimanded, this is not an act of defiance. It is an act of self-protection. The child with ADHD gets overwhelmed quickly, and will often close him or herself off because they are completely overwhelmed. Imagine being asked to read five magazines and write a cohesive report on the contents under a strict time

constraint. The task is overwhelming, and most people would shut down, as the task is impossible. And this is just why an ADHD child shuts down. They are overwhelmed and need the time to gather themselves.

They Need to “Wander”

Children with ADHD will often appear to be daydreaming and not paying attention. In fact, this is when they are concentrating most. They are trying to focus on only one thing happening around them, and that thing is usually the teacher. Again, go back to that busy mall, [and try to focus](#) on the quietest conversation. The words cannot be discerned from the surrounding noise. It is the same for the child when the teacher is talking, a student is tapping a pencil, and another student is giggling or shuffling papers. Menial tasks, such as listening closely to direction, are incredibly difficult for this student.